

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MR. VERN OLLAR OF KERRVILLE, TEXAS

**HON. CHIP ROY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 27, 2021*

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Mr. Vern Ollar of Kerrville, Texas. Corporal Ollar served with Company B of the 81st Chemical Mortar Battalion, United States Army, in World War II. His unit was commended with a Presidential Unit Citation for their heroic landing on D-Day at the Dog Green sector of Omaha Beach. They supported the Army Rangers at Pointe Du Hoc, and then went on to beat the Nazis on the other side of Paris. He was in the first unit to enter Germany under the 4th Armored Division.

After victory in Europe was declared, Corporal Ollar taught Belgian civilians how to detect enemy mortar locations. When World War II came to an end, Corporal Ollar finally headed back home to the United States of America where he and his wife Jayne raised four children. Mr. Ollar gained experience in the private sector and eventually started his own business, Ollar Hardware Company Incorporated. He retired in 1985 and sold the business to his children.

Mr. Ollar lost his dear wife Jayne after 55 years of marriage in 1997. He later married again to Diane, and together they are blessed with six children. The French Government awarded Mr. Ollar with their Legion of Honor in 2014 as a token of thanks for his role in liberating their country.

Like many of his fellow World War II veterans, Mr. Ollar found it difficult to speak about his war-time experiences. However, that changed when he traveled to Normandy for the 70th anniversary of his landing there. Mr. Ollar was touched by the fact that civilian homes sit safe and sound on the very same hill that his unit climbed on June 6, 1944. This anniversary trip helped Mr. Ollar speak about his World War II experiences for the first time.

He and Diane both fought a very different battle this past year and were victorious against their enemy, the COVID-19 virus. It is a privilege and honor to rise today in honor of a true American hero, Mr. Vern Ollar, in recognition of his 100th birthday.

HONORING DR. BARBARA FERRER AS A 28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 27, 2021*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Woman's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contribu-

tions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Dr. Barbara Ferrer of the Echo Park neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Dr. Ferrer obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Community Studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz, a Master of Arts in Public Health from Boston University, a Master of Arts in Education from the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and a Ph.D. in Social Welfare from Brandeis University. A renowned and respected public health leader, Dr. Ferrer has more than four decades of professional experience as a researcher, philanthropic strategist, community advocate, educational leader, and public health director.

Dr. Ferrer has held several leadership positions throughout the years, serving as Director of Health Promotion & Chronic Disease Prevention and Director of the Division of Maternal & Child Health, respectively, at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. She also served as Headmaster at a high school in Boston, where she spearheaded efforts to improve high school graduation rates. After working in these capacities, Dr. Ferrer served as the Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. In this role, she directed the city's health department, including managing 1,100 employees, oversaw all Commission programs, and was a senior member of the Mayor's cabinet, advising on health-related issues. Under her leadership, the City of Boston experienced improvements in health outcomes, such as a decrease in the rates of childhood obesity, infant mortality, and smoking. Dr. Ferrer then went on to work for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Michigan as the Chief Strategy Officer, where her responsibilities included developing the strategic direction and providing leadership to the foundation's key program areas, such as community engagement, racial equity, and family economic security.

Presently, Dr. Barbara Ferrer serves as Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, which prevents disease, protects health, and promotes well-being and equity in Los Angeles County. In this capacity, she oversees a workforce of nearly 7,000 staff, and oversees all operating units, including the Bureaus of Operations Support, Health Promotion, Health Protection, and Disease Control. Dr. Ferrer guided the area's coronavirus pandemic response, collaborating with the County and community-based partners to ensure targeted services and appropriate policies to keep Los Angeles County residents safe during this health crisis. She leads the Department's Incident Command System, inceptioned at the start of the pandemic to facilitate informed decision-making and implementation of mitigation and response activities, such as safety protocols. The crisis response has included communications with education sectors, residents, and businesses, disease and outbreak management, vaccine

planning and administration, development and implementation of health officer orders, and engagement of community leaders and stakeholders in response efforts. Dr. Ferrer's unparalleled and compassionate leadership, coupled with her wealth of knowledge, helped the community navigate during these unprecedented times.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Dr. Barbara Ferrer.

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL JOHN FERDINAND "JT" THOMPSON

**HON. TED LIEU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 27, 2021*

Mr. LIEU. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the service of Lieutenant General John Ferdinand "JT" Thompson of the United States Air Force, commander of the Space and Missile Systems Center at the Los Angeles Air Force Base, who will soon be retiring after 37 years of military service to our nation.

Lieutenant General Thompson has had a decorated career in military service, having begun his journey as a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy Class of 1984. Throughout his Air Force career, General Thompson has served in various acquisition, scientific and logistics-oriented capacities, including assignments at Air Force Materiel Command, Systems Command and in the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition.

General Thompson served in several leadership positions including as Chief of Commodities Division, Ogden Air Logistics Center, Utah and as commander of the 327th Aircraft Sustainment Wing, Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. He also served as Deputy Program Executive Officer for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program and the KC-46 Program Director.

Lieutenant General Thompson will soon retire from the United States Air Force, where he currently serves as Commander of the Space and Missile Systems Center and the Los Angeles Air Force Base where he is responsible for 6,000 employees nationwide.

As the Air Force Program Executive Officer for Space, Lieutenant General Thompson supervises the research, arrangement, expansion, and sustainment of associated command and control systems and satellites. His leadership and efforts have fostered revolutionary space projects and programs that will impact generations for years to come.

Lieutenant General Thompson's major awards and decorations exemplify his leadership, and unwavering dedication to our country having received the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal and Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters. He

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